



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **DUI Round-Up**

### **31 Arrests in April 2012**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – May 8, 2012**

In April 2012, SBPD made 31 arrests for driving under the influence violations. The following is information on a few of those cases.

4/3/12, 0118 hours, Ronda Marquita Albanez (age 39), was observed by a citizen driving on the wrong side of the road. The citizen observed Albanez swerving all over the road and was concerned that Albanez might be drunk, which prompted him to call 911. Officer Keller located Albanez and contacted her. Officer Tagles arrived and conducted a DUI investigation. Officer Tagles noted Albanez was so intoxicated that she had to lean against the patrol vehicle to keep her balance. Officer Tagles determined that Albanez was too intoxicated to safely operate a motor vehicle and placed her under arrest for DUI. Albanez provided 2 breath tests of .22 and .24 BAC. Albanez was issued a citation and admitted into the sobering center.

4/5/12, 0117 hours, Sean Simms (age 37) was observed entering the freeway and driving approximately 2 miles. Officer Merrett observed the vehicle drifting over the lines and almost collide with a tractor-trailer that was pulled over to the side of the freeway. Officer Merrett conducted a traffic stop and noted that Simms and his passenger both appeared intoxicated. Officer Tudor, the Drinking Driver Team Officer, arrived and conducted a DUI investigation. Simms admitted to drinking 4 beers prior to driving. Officer Tudor determined that Simms was too intoxicated to safely operate a motor vehicle and placed him under arrest for DUI. Simms provided 2 breath tests of .14 and .13 BAC. It should be noted that Simms was on probation for 2 prior DUI arrests. Simms was booked into County jail on \$25,000 bail for his third DUI offense and violation of probation.

4/06/12, 0044 hours, Jesus Alfonso Hernandez (age 18), was driving in the area of Ortega Street and Anacapa Street when he violated Vehicle Code section 21801(a), failing to yield the right of way at an intersection. Hernandez almost collided with a patrol vehicle occupied by Officer Eccles and Officer Maudlin. Officer Tudor witnessed this near collision and conducted a traffic stop on Hernandez vehicle. Officer Tudor immediately noted that Hernandez displayed signs of alcohol intoxication. Hernandez, who is under 21-years of age, was required to provide a preliminary alcohol breath test, which registered his BAC at .163. Officer Tudor conducted an investigation asked Hernandez several questions and had him perform a series of field sobriety tests. Hernandez failed to successfully complete the field sobriety tests and Officer Tudor believed Hernandez was too intoxicated to safely operate a motor vehicle. Officer Tudor placed Hernandez under arrest for DUI. Hernandez provided 2 breath tests of .14 and .13 BAC. Hernandez was issued a citation and admitted into the sobering center.

4/18/12, 2219 hours, Eric Tracy (age 23), was observed by Officer Lombardo driving without headlights on during the hours of darkness. Officer Lombardo conducted a traffic stop and contacted Tracy who was exhibiting signs of alcohol intoxication. Officer Tudor, the Drinking Driver Team Officer, arrived and conducted a DUI investigation. Tracy stated he had drunk 1 beer and 3 sakes prior to driving. After completing the DUI investigation, Officer Tudor determined that Tracy was too intoxicated to safely operate a motor vehicle and placed him under arrest for DUI. Tracy provided 2 breath tests of .14 and .15 BAC. It should be noted that Tracy is currently on probation for a DUI arrest in 2011. Tracy was booked at County Jail for DUI and violation of probation.

4/27/12, 2327 hours, Alejandro Bejerano is observed by a citizen drinking beer in a vehicle in the parking lot of 7-Eleven at 331 W. Montecito Street. The citizen flagged down Officer Ruiz who contacted Bejerano. Bejerano stated he did not have a driver's license and was not driving. Officer Ruiz noted Bejerano was sitting in the driver seat of the vehicle and had several opened and unopened bottles of beer in the cab of the vehicle with him. Officer Ruiz issued Bejerano a citation for open container of alcohol and warned him not to drive due to his intoxicated state. Bejerano told Officer Ruiz he would call a friend to come and pick him up. Officer Ruiz returned to his patrol vehicle and was working on some paperwork when he observed Bejerano start driving away. Officer Ruiz followed Bejerano and immediately initiated a traffic stop. Officer Tudor and Officer Garcia arrived to conduct a DUI investigation. Officer Garcia conducted the investigation and determined that Bejerano was too intoxicated to safely operate a motor vehicle; he placed Bejerano under arrest for DUI. Bejerano provided 2 breath tests of .20 and .19 BAC. Bejerano was booked into County jail for DUI and driving without a license.

4/30/12, 1920 hours, Oscar Flores (age 26) was found passed out in a vehicle with the keys in the ignition and the vehicle in drive. A citizen had observed Flores in his vehicle, passed out, and had assisted in waking him up as he was blocking several other vehicles from leaving. Upon waking, Flores moved his vehicle approximately 30 feet and then again, passed out while driving the vehicle. The citizen reached in and turned the vehicle off, then called the police. Officer Hettema and Officer Radujko arrived and proceeded to wake Flores. Officer Radujko conducted a DUI investigation and determined that Flores was far too intoxicated to safely operate a motor vehicle. Officer Radujko placed Flores under arrest for DUI and Flores chose a blood test. Flores admitted to the County jail staff that he drank regularly and had an alcohol problem. Blood test results are pending.

**Contact: Sergeant Riley L. Harwood, Community & Media Relations / PIO**

**Phone: (805) 897-2320**

**Fax: (805) 897-2420**

**Email: [rhawood@sbpd.com](mailto:rhawood@sbpd.com)**



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